

Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study  
Benjamin Coggeshall House  
8 Orange Street  
Nantucket  
Nantucket County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-1062

HABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
76H-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ORANGE AND UNION STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY  
BENJAMIN COGGESHALL HOUSEHABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
76H-

Location: 8 Orange Street (on east side at corner of  
Gardner's Court), Nantucket, Massachusetts

Present Owners: Clara Parker, Ida Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth H.  
(Parker) Andrews.

Present Occupants: Leasees

Present Use: Dwelling

Brief Statement  
of Significance: Handsome Greek Revival home of a famous Nantucket  
whaler; part of the Orange and Union Streets Neigh-  
borhood Study (MASS-1014).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1836 -- Benjamin Coggeshall, mariner, bought land in  
Wesco from his brother Peleg for \$600.  
1841 -- Nathaniel A. Sprague bought from Benjamin  
Coggeshall land with dwelling thereon.  
1841 -- One day later Daniel Jones, silversmith, bought  
the property from Nathaniel A. Sprague.  
1848 -- Henry H. Jones by will of his father, Daniel  
Jones.  
1852 -- Elisha Parker, blacksmith, bought from Henry H.  
Jones for \$850.  
1884 -- Eliza C. Parker and children on death of Elisha  
Parker.  
1894 -- Clinton Parker on death of his mother Eliza.  
1933 -- Harriett E. Parker, widow of Clinton Parker and  
her three daughters inherited the property.  
1969 to date -- Clara Parker and Ida Parker.  
(Abstract: Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket,  
Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Between 1836 and 1841.

3. Architect: Unknown

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: A Greek Revival house  
with carpenter's handbook details. The house was built with

a high basement and large rooms with double parlors on both floors, a palatial home reflecting the wealth received from whaling.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: Various changes have been made from time to time and an ell was added at the rear, but the main part of the house remains much as built.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Peleg Coggeshall and his brother Benjamin built houses side by side at 8 and 10 Orange Street. Peleg was a cooper while Benjamin, a younger man, was a mariner who made at least five trips out of Nantucket between 1832 and 1851 as Captain of Whaleships Peruvian, Walter Scott, Monticello and Alabama. On his last trip on the Alabama in 1851, Captain Coggeshall "left the ship sick and died at home in November 1854". For some undetermined reason both brothers sold their homes at the same time in 1841.

Daniel Jones who had been living in his home at 5 Orange Street for many years bought the property at No. 8 across the street, and left it by will to his son, Henry H. Jones. Daniel Jones was called a silversmith in deeds although there is no record of his work in lists of silversmiths who worked at Nantucket. He was known, however, as a man of substance and some standing in Nantucket, and although Mrs. Jones is believed to have been a Quakeress their home contained many costly items of furnishings brought from the Orient.

This house has been in the possession of the Parker family since 1852.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Photograph in Rambling Through the Streets and Lanes of Nantucket by Edouard A. Stackpole, 1969, page 24; photographs of Orange Street in Fifty Glimpses of Nantucket Island by John F. Murphy, New York and Chicago: Rand McNally, 1897; old photograph showing cobblestones in Nantucket Illustrated by A. Wittemann, New York: The Albertype Co., 1888.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin  
Nantucket, Massachusetts  
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PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014) made in the summer of 1970 by the Historic American Buildings Survey on Nantucket, Massachusetts. This is the fifth

summer project of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Director was Professor F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A., of the University of Florida. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.